

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/585,747

Examiner

Minh Dinh

Applicant(s)

HADJINIKITAS ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after-final amendment filed 10/31/05 and Examiner's amendment on 11/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-8 and 16-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Jakobsche on 11/11/05. The application has been amended as follows:

5. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a user of a client computer at a server computer executing a distributed application on a plurality of first data processing agents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first service request from the user at one of the plurality of first data processing agents;

submitting an authentication request from the one of the plurality of first data processing agents to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user;

authenticating the user at the second data processing agent;

if the user is successfully authenticated;

storing a first timeout value indicative of a predetermined first time period on the second data processing agent; and

sending authentication information that the one of the plurality of first data processing agents can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent;

determining whether the predetermined first time period is exceeded;

if the predetermined first time period is exceeded without receiving a second service request from the user, requiring the user to be authenticated at log into the second data processing agent upon receipt of the second service request; and

if the second service request is received from the user at another of the plurality of first data processing agents before the first time period is exceeded, restarting the first timeout value.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for authenticating a user of a client computer at a server computer executing a distributed application on a plurality of data processing agents, the system comprising:

a server including a plurality of first data processing agents for receiving service requests from the user and a second data processing agent for authenticating the user,

wherein each of the plurality of first data processing agents is configured to submit an authentication request to the second data processing agent to authenticate the user,

wherein the second data processing agent is configured to:

receive the authentication request from the submitting first data processing agent;

attempt to authenticate the user; and

if the user is successfully authenticated, store a first timeout value indicative of a first predetermined time period-if the user is successfully authenticated, and send to the submitting data processing agent authentication information that the submitting first data processing agent can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent; and

determine whether the first predetermined time period is exceeded;

wherein each of the plurality of first data processing agents is further configured to notify the second data processing agent if a second service request is received from the user, and the second data processing agent is configured to restart the first timeout value in response to receiving the notification after receiving a previous notification, relative to the user, from another one of the first data processing agents,

wherein each of the plurality of first data processing agents is further configured to require the user to be re-authenticated at log into the second data processing agent upon receipt of a second service request if the first predetermined time period is exceeded before the second service request is received.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:  
if the user is successfully authenticated, storing a second timeout value indicative of a second predetermined time period on at least the one of the plurality of first data processing agents;  
and  
if the at least one of the plurality of first data processing agents receives the second service request before the second timeout period is exceeded:  
restarting the second timeout period stored on at least the one of the plurality of second first data processing agents that received the second service request; and  
providing the requested service to the user without requiring the user to be authenticated at the second data processing agent upon receipt of the second service request.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Claims 5-7 and 16-20 are directed to an authentication method in a distributed environment in which a first data processing agent utilizes a second data processing agent for authenticating a first request for service from a user received at the first data processing agent, and the second data processing agent monitors an inactivity timeout period associated with the user's session with the first data processing agent. More specifically, independent claim 5 identifies the uniquely distinct features: if the user is successfully authenticated, sending authentication information that the first data processing agent can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent, and if a second request is received from the user at another of the plurality of first data processing agents before the first time period is exceeded, restarting the first timeout period. The closest prior art, Sampson et al (6,490,624) discloses managing a common timeout value associated with a user; the timeout value being reset when a request made by the user is received at any first data processing agent; however, Sampson

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does not disclose that the first data processing agent performs authentication. Another prior art, Fuh et al (6,463,474), discloses sending authentication information that the first data processing agent can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent; however, Fuh second data processing agent does not manage timeout values for users' requests. Still another prior art, Gupta et al (6,226,752), discloses an authentication method in a distributed environment in which the first timeout period is restarted if a second request of the same session is received; however, Gupta does not teach that the first data processing agent performs authentication and the first timeout period is restarted if a second request is received from the user at another first data processing agent. The prior art, taken either singly or in combination, fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of applicant's independent claim, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C 102 or 103 would be proper. The claimed invention is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and nonobvious over prior art. Claims 8 and 21-24 are system claims corresponding to the method claims 5-7 and 16-20 and, therefore, are allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-3802.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 10:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MD

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11/11/05

  
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